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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY: East Germany

DATE DISTR. 28 October 1953

SUBJECT: Decline in FDGB Membership

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On 23 July 1953, source learned from an FDGB functionary that complaints had been voiced at a recent meeting of FDGB functionaries about a marked decrease, after 17 June, in the membership of the organization and also in the membership dues paid. Source remembered the following figures illustrating this development: Prior to the June 17 uprising, 62 percent of all Potsdam railroadmen belonged to the Betriebsgruppe "Eisenbahn" (local of the Trade Union of Railroadmen); this number dropped to 51 percent. At the Seddin marshaling yard, all locomotive personnel stopped the paying of trade union membership dues in order to protest against the fact that no support was granted them by the FDGB during the strike in June. Membership in the Bezirk Potsdam organization of the Trade Union of Postal Workers decreased from 83 percent of all workers employed to 18 percent. In the city of Brandenburg, FDGB dues decreased from 145,000 Eastmarks in June to 112,000 Eastmarks in July. In Koenigswusterhausen, Rathenow, and Potsdam, FDGB dues dropped from 44,000 to 32,000, 114,000 to 91,000, and 10,000 to 2,000 Eastmarks respectively.

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